

Interview Summary

Applicant wishes to thank Examiner Henry Liu for the telephonic interview conducted on May 27, 2010 with Applicant's attorney of record, Mark M. Zylka. No exhibits were shown and no demonstration was conducted. Claim 13 was discussed relative to U.S. Patent No. 4,655,735 to Sakakibara. Applicant's principal arguments concerned the failure of Sakakibara to disclose each feature recited in claim 13, including "a front half of the contact surface forms an obtuse angle with a front surface of the push block, a rear half of the contact surface forms an obtuse angle with a rear surface of the push block, and a ridge line comprising a line formed by an intersection of said front half and said rear half, said ridge line functioning as an oil film breaking portion for breaking an oil film, which forms on the inner side surfaces of the annular V-grooves of the pulleys, and extending along the entire length of the contact surface at a middle part of the contact surface in the widthwise direction, wherein the push block is formed by bending a single wire material and then performing pressing."

Claim 15 was discussed relative to JP Patent Publication 10213185 to Kato. Applicant's principal arguments concerned the failure of Kato to disclose each feature recited in claim 15, including "a groove extending along the entire length of the contact surface at the middle of the contact surface."

The Examiner appeared to agree with Applicant's arguments, but suggested that claim amendments may be helpful toward advancing the prosecution. For instance, with respect to claim 13, the Examiner indicated that the relationship of the front and rear surfaces of the push block relative to the side contact surface could be identified in greater detail. With respect to claim 15, the Examiner noted that the orientation of the groove in the contact surface could be identified in greater detail.